diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and various adultrants available in the market and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel.

(b) There is reportedly no established case of involvement of officers of IOC and HPCL in adulteration cases in Delhi during the current year.

(c) The State Governments/Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) take action against the established cases of adulteration by the petrol pumps as per the provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955/ Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG). The penalties under MDG include termination of dealerships, imposition of fines, suspension of supplies, warning, etc.

Operation of Oil Companies

3002. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many oil companies have shown keen interest in downstream oil refining, petrochemical, LNG and collaboration as well as acquiring stake in companies abroad including Government organizations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision to allow them to do so;and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) The Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in the oil sector generally function in their core areas of business. Some of the PSUs in the oil sector both upstream and downstream, have taken steps to integrate themselves along the hydrocarbon value chain. Oil PSUs engaged in exploration and production have taken up, or are planning to take up, downstream activities. Similarly, some of the downstream PSUs have taken up upstream activities and have been participating in E&P activities. ONGC are also considering investments

in **a** power plant in Tripura to monetize their unutilized gas. Government policy is guided by the mandate of the Common Minimum Programme to enhance the country's energy security.

Advisors for Indo-lran Pipeline Project

3003. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) wheher it is a fact that Government have received good response for appointment of Advisors for Iran pipeline;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have appointed Advisors for Iran pipeline out of the proposal it received; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) The Government has decided to appoint Financial, Technical and Legal Consultants for the Iran—Pakistan—India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project. IOC were assigned the task of appointing the Financial Consultants and GAIL were asked to appoint the Technical and Legal Consultants.

IOC and GAIL received five bids and four bids, respectively, from major international companies for appointment as Financial Consultants and Technical Consultants. After evaluating these bids, IOC have appointed M/s. Erust & Young as Financial Consultants, and GAIL have appointed M/s. ILF Consulting Engineers as Technical Consultants for the Project. The process of appointing the Legal Consultants is at present underway and should be completed within the next two weeks.

Scarcity of LPG in Andhra Pradesh

3004. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in some districts of Andhra Pradesh like Guntur and Prakasam it takes forty-five days to get **a** refill of LPG gas these days;